

Lawyer Says Clay Bertrand Was Figment Of Imagination

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NEW ORLEANS (AP) — A lawyer who says he had Lee Harvey Oswald as a client several months before President Kennedy was killed has testified that the mysterious Clay Bertrand of the Clay Shaw case did not exist.

Bertrand "was a figment of my imagination," Dean Andrews Jr. testified Tuesday at Shaw's trial on a charge of conspiring to kill Kennedy.

It is the name Bertrand that Dist. Atty Jim Garrison contends Shaw used as an alias in plotting with Oswald and others to kill the President.

Andrews had testified before a Warren Commission investigator and two grand juries, and he told the FBI that a man he knew as Clay Bertrand telephoned him the day after Oswald's arrest to ask that he go to Dallas to take over as defense lawyer.

But Tuesday he said he had "let my mouth run ahead of my brain."

"I can't give you any explanation. . . . Once you make a fool of yourself you're stuck with it."

Andrews, a short heavy man whose speech is laced with slang, said he sought fame—and wound up convicted of perjury. His case is pending on appeal.

"It's page after page of bull," he said, when Asst. Dist. Atty. James L. Alcock asked him to explain his previous testimony. "You mean page after page after page of lies?" cried Alcock in crossexamination.

"If you want to call it that, that's your privilege," said Andrews. "I call them conflicting statements."

Andrews testified Tuesday that the telephone call was from an old client, Eugene Davis, on a minor legal matter.

said Davis, in casual conversation, told him he'd never be a famous lawyer unless he grabbed big cases like one developing in Dallas.

Andrews said when he was telling the FBI his story it suddenly dawned on him that he was about to subject Davis to "a lot of heat and pressure that didn't belong to him." So he substituted the name Clay Bertrand, which he said was the first one that popped into his mind.

Andrews testified that he gave Oswald legal advice several times in May and April of 1963. He described Oswald as a walk-in client but he refused to give details of his dealings with Oswald by claiming lawyer-client privilege and the court upheld his right to do so.

Andrews was convicted in August of 1967 for perjury involving previous Bertrand testimony.